

THE MAGAZINE OF



THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

JANUARY 1965

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SPASTICS NEWS



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THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

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Peterborough and Dist. Spastics Group **O**
Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Society **OC**

Regional Officer:

H. G. Knight, 51 Newnham Road,
Cambridge. Tel.: 61747

Regional Social Worker:

Miss H. M. Day, 51 Newnham Road,
Cambridge. Tel.: 54531

East Midlands Region

Boston District Branch
Chesterfield and District Spastics Society **TOC**

Derby and District Spastics Soc. **T**
Grantham & District Friends of Spastics
Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends
of Spastics Society

Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics
Society **TC**

Lincoln and District Spastics Society
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Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics
Group **O**

Newark Area Spastics Society
Northampton & County Spastics Soc. **TE**
Nottingham and District Friends of
Spastics Group **TEC**

Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society
Stamford and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

P. L. Lindsell, 32 Park Row, Notting-
ham. Tel.: 42198

North-Eastern Region

Barnsley and District Association **EC**
Bradford and District Branch
Castleford and District Spastics
Committee

Darlington and District Spastics Soc. **H**

LOCAL GROUPS

Dewsbury and District Spastics Society
Goole and District Spastics Association
Halifax and District Spastic Group **W**
Huddersfield and District Spastics Soc. **O**
Hull Group, The Friends of Spastics
Society in Hull and District **H**
Leeds and District Spastics Society **O**
Pontefract and District Spastics Assoc.
Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society
Sheffield and District Spastics Soc. **TEOC**
South Shields and District Spastics
Society **C**
Sunderland and District Spastics
Society **CW**
Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics
TE
York and District Spastics Group **TC**

Regional Officer:

R. J. F. Whyte, Royal Chambers,
Station Parade, Harrogate. Tel.: 69655

Regional Social Worker:

Miss B. P. Stephenson, same address

North-Western Region

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic
and Handicapped Children's Society **C**
Birkenhead Spastic Children's Soc. **TEOC**
Blackburn and District Spastics Group

Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group **W**
Bollington, Macclesfield and Dist. Group
Bolton and District Group **TE**
Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics
Group **T**

Caernarvonshire Spastics & Handicapped
Peoples Society

Chester and District Spastics Assoc.
Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society
Crewe and District Spastics Society **TEO**
Crosby and District Spastics Society **C**
Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness
Spastics Society **H**

Flint Borough Spastics Association
Lancaster, Morecambe and District
Spastics Society
Manchester & Dist. Spastics Soc. **TCE**
Montgomeryshire Spastics Society

Oldham & District Spastics Society **OC**
Preston and District Spastics Group **OC**
Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics
Society **RTEC**
Southport, Formby and District Spastics
Society **H**
Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak
Spastics Society **TEOC**
Urmston and District Group **TC**
Warrington Group for the Welfare of
Spastics **O**
Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group
Wigan and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

T. H. Keighley, Room 481, 4th Floor,
St. James' Buildings, Oxford Street,
Manchester 1. Tel.: Central 2088

Deputy Regional Officer:

F. Young,
6 King's Buildings, Chester

Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. M. Moncaster, same address
as Mr. Keighley

Northern Home Counties Region

Bedford and District **TOWEC**
Bishop's Stortford and District Group,
Herts Spastics Society **E**

Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare
Society **W**

East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society
East London Spastic Society **H**

Epping Forest and District Branch **TO**
Friends of Ponds Home

Hatfield and District Group, Herts
Spastics Society

Hemel Hempstead and District Group,
Herts Spastics Society

Chief Regional Officer:

A. M. Frank, M.C., M.A., 12 Park
Cresc., London, W.1.

Key:

T—Treatment Available

E—Education

O—Occupational Centre

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Editor: Eve Renshaw

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LOCAL GROUPS

Hitchin and District Friends of Spastics,
Herts Spastics Society
Ilford, Romford and District Spastics
Association **O**
Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics
Group **TEC**
Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group
Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Soc. **TOC**
Reading and Berkshire Spastics Welfare
Society **T**
Slough and District Spastics Welfare
Society
South-West Middlesex Group **T**
St. Albans and District Group, Herts
Spastics Society **T**
Walthamstow and District Spastics Society
Watford and District Group, Herts
Spastics Society **TEOC**
Welwyn Garden City and District Group,
Herts Spastics Society
Wycombe and District Spastics Society **T**

Regional Officer:

R. C. Lemarie, 524 St. Alban's Road
North Watford. Tel.: 41565

Regional Social Worker (except Essex):

Miss Ballance, same address. Tel.:
41059

London Region (provisional)

North London Area Association of Parents
and Friends of Spastics **T**
North-West London Spastics Soc. **O**
South-East London Group **T**
South London Group
South-West London and District Group

Regional Officer:

Mrs. P. Latham, 28 Fitzroy Square,
London, W.C.1.

Local Centres Secretary:

D. Lancaster-Gaye, 12 Park Cresc.,
London, W.1.

W—Work Centre

H—Holiday Home

C—Child Care

R—Residential Centre

South-Eastern Region

Brighton, Hove and District Branch **TOC**
Central Surrey Group
Croydon and District Spastics Soc. **TEWC**
East Sussex Group **TC**
Folkestone and District Branch **H**
Horsham, Crawley and District Spastics
Society
Maidstone Area Spastic Group **OT**
Medway Towns Branch **T**
North Hants & West Surrey Gp. **TECO**
North Surrey Group **W**
North-West Kent Spastics Group **WO**
North-West Surrey Group **TEC**
South-East Surrey Spastics Group
(Redhill) **TOC**
South-West Surrey Group **TEC**
Thanet Group
Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge & Area Gp.
West Kent Spastics Society, Incorporating
Bromley and District Spastics Group **W**

Regional Officer:

H. J. I. Cunningham 29b Linkfield
Lane, Redhill, Surrey. Tel.: Redhill
3944 and 2250

Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. Chinchin, same address

Wessex Region

Andover and District Spastics Society
Basingstoke & District Spastics Society
Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics
Society **CTE**
Cheltenham Spastic Aid Association **ETC**
Isle of Wight Spastics Group **TE**
Portsmouth and Dist. Spastics Soc. **W**
Southampton and District Spastics
Association **TOWC**
Swindon and District Spastic Society **H**
Winchester and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

J. Kelly, 7 St. John St., Salisbury.
Tel.: 4521

West Midland Region:

Cannock Chase Spastic Association
Coventry and District Spastics Society **RO**
Dudley and District Spastic Group **TOC**
Midland Spastic Association
North Staffordshire Spastic Association **T**
Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group
Stafford and District Spastic Assoc. **TC**

Regional Officer:

I. C. R. Archibald, 465 Mosley Road,
Birmingham 12. Tel.: Calthorpe 4192.

South Wales Region (including Mon.)

Cardiff and District Spastic Assoc. **TC**
Kenfig Hill & Dist. Spastics Soc. **CTO**
Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Soc.
Monmouthshire Spastics Society
Pontypridd and District Group **TC**
Swansea & District Spastics Ass. **TECW**

Regional Officer:

B. Kingsley-Davies 2 Saunders Road,
Cardiff. Tel.: 29289

Regional Social Worker:

Miss Davey, same address

Western Region

Bath and District Spastics Society
Bridgwater and District Friends of
Spastics Association **T**
Bristol Spastics Association **CTOW**
Cornish Spastics Society
Exeter and Torbay Spastics Society **T**
Plymouth Spastic (CP) Assoc. **COETW**
Weston and District Society for the
Spastic and Mentally Handicapped **R**
Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare
Society

Regional Officer:

Mrs. A. Mansel-Dyer, St. John House,
60 Staplegrave Road, Taunton, Somers-
et. Tel.: 81678

Jersey Spastic Society

Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic
Development (Inc.)

Higher National Assistance Rates

Draft Regulations laid before Parliament

MISS MARGARET HERBISON, Minister of Pensions and National Insurance, has received and accepted proposals by the National Assistance Board for higher national assistance rates.

On December 2, 1964, the Minister laid before Parliament Draft Amending Regulations*. These Draft Regulations require the approval of both Houses of Parliament and, subject to their approval, will come into force from March 29, 1965. Their effect is to increase the weekly amounts provided for needs other than rent, for which separate provision is made in the assessment of individual allowances. Under a special provision of the National Insurance Bill now before Parliament persons getting the new rates of unemployment and sickness benefit in January, who are also receiving assistance, will not have their assistance payments reduced on that account.

The new rates

It is proposed that the existing national assistance rates, which came into force on May 27, 1963, be increased by 12s. 6d. a week for a single person, and by £1 1s. a week for a married couple. Increases are also proposed in the rates for dependent children, young people, and blind and certain tuberculous persons. The main changes in national assistance rates are:—

	Current rate	Weekly rate now proposed	Proposed increase
Married couple ...	104s. 6d.	125s. 6d.	21s. 0d.
Single householder ...	63s. 6d.	76s. 0d.	12s. 6d.
Other persons over 21	55s. 0d.	67s. 6d.	12s. 6d.

The increases proposed, while taking account of changes in prices since May, 1963, represent a substantial improvement in the real value of the rates.

An allowance for a "reasonable" rent (in almost all cases the net rent actually payable) is added to these rates for householders, and a share of rent for a person living as a member of someone else's household. The total of scale rates plus rent (plus any provision made under the Board's discretionary powers to meet special needs) gives the figure at which a person's needs are assessed.

Supplements to pensions and benefits

Since the object of national assistance grants is to bring any resources a person already has (apart from resources which the Board is required to disregard, e.g. 30s. of a war disability pension) up to the figure at which his needs are assessed, and since the amount received from national insurance pensions and benefits is taken into account in full as a resource, it follows that changes in pension and benefit rates can affect the amount of assistance supplements. On this occasion, however, the increases proposed in national assistance rates are similar to the increases in national insurance pensions and benefits announced by the Minister: in the great majority of cases, therefore, the amount of the supplement will remain unchanged and pensioners and others in receipt of national insurance benefits

will obtain the full benefit of the national insurance increases.

Other persons

People without pensions and benefits will generally have an increase in their weekly grants of the amount by which the appropriate scale rates have been increased.

The Board are, however, required to restrict the assistance granted to a man who is unemployed so that he is not better off than when working; some unemployed men are already getting an income equal to their normal net earnings and their incomes will therefore necessarily remain at that level.

Review of allowances

Nearly two million weekly allowances are now in payment, most of them to the old, sick and widowed. No action needs to be taken by those receiving allowances. They will be sent individual notifications.

Cost

The cost of these proposals, given a concurrent increase in national insurance benefits, will be about £23 million in a full year.

THE NEW RATES IN DETAIL

	Present scale		Proposed new scale		Proposed increase
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s. d.
Ordinary scale					
For a husband and wife	104	6	125	6	21 0
For a single householder	63	6	76	0	12 6

For other persons

Aged 21 or over ...	55	0	67	6	12 6
Aged 18-20 ...	43	0	51	6	8 6
Aged 16-17 ...	37	0	44	6	7 6
Aged 11-15 ...	28	0	33	6	5 6
Aged 5-10 ...	23	0	27	0	4 0
Aged under 5 ...	19	6	22	6	3 0

EXAMPLES

The Explanatory Memorandum* by the National Assistance Board which explains the changes in detail gives examples of the amounts to which, under the proposed new scale rates, the income of householder applicants (including where appropriate family allowances, and national insurance benefits and pensions at the proposed new rates) would normally be increased. For the purpose of these illustrations the amount allowed for rent is assumed to be the average amount paid by the relevant category of household, as shown on page 22 of the Board's Report for 1963. In many circumstances their total income will be higher than the figures given; for example, there might be resources disregarded in whole or in part or special needs provided for by discretionary additions, or the rent might exceed the amount shown. (In the great majority of cases, of course, the amount allowed for rent is the amount actually paid.)

* Draft National Assistance (Determination of Need) Amendment Regulations, 1964, price 3d.

* Cmd. No. 2522, price 6d.

Examples

Amount per week

	£	s.	d.
Single householder living alone paying rent and rates of 22s. 6d. a week	4	18	6
Married couple living alone paying rent and rates of 26s. 6d. a week	7	12	0
Married couple with two children aged between 5 and 10 paying rent and rates of 34s. 6d. a week	10	14	0
Married couple with three children aged respectively less than 5 years, between 5 and 10 and between 11 and 16 paying rent and rates of 34s. 6d. a week	12	3	0

A single person living as a member of someone else's household would normally have his income made up to £3 7s. 6d. plus his share of the rent; if for example he were living with one other adult who paid 30s. a week rent, his income would be made up to £4 2s. 6d. a week.

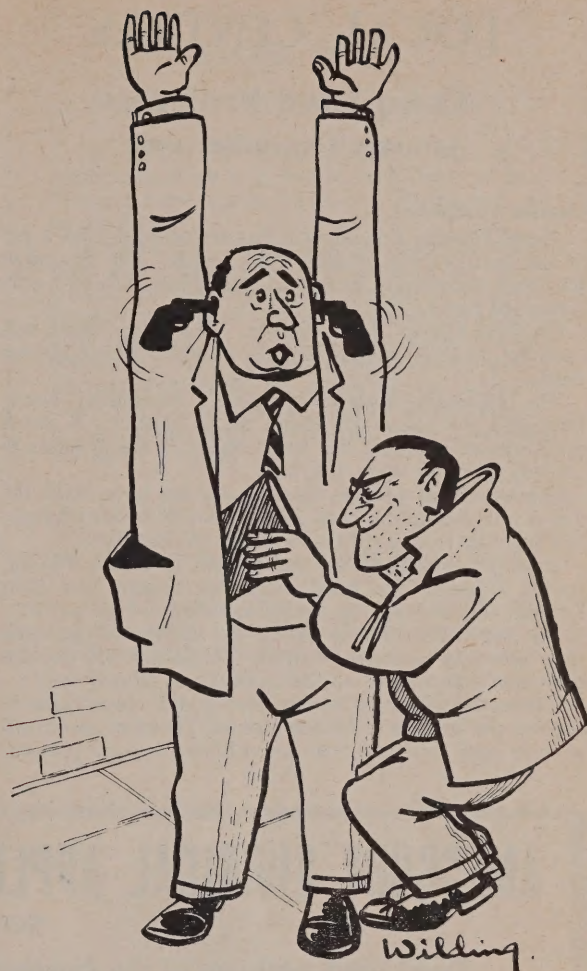
Services for Mentally Sub-Normal

THE Spastics Society is collaborating with the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and the National Association for Mental Health in a research into the provision of services for the mentally sub-normal. When the Hospital Plan was published in January, 1962, it became evident that whilst the number of beds in mental sub-normality hospitals would be increased at a rate to keep pace with the estimated increase of population they should remain steady at 1.3 per 1,000 per population over the next 10 years.

It was, however, hoped that services within the community would develop and relieve the strain on the hospital waiting lists. This assessment of the situation caused grave alarm in the minds of the many concerned with the mentally sub-normal particularly in these areas where the waiting lists for beds were very long.

A number of meetings were therefore held by representatives of the Spastics Society, the National Association for Mental Health and the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and it was decided to undertake a joint research, it being felt that little could be done by an outright attack on the official position before all concerned were in full possession of the facts. As a result a research team has been appointed which will be headed by Dr. Martin of Edinburgh University. He has since added to his team as research officers, Miss M. R. Bone and Miss E. Spain. The general purpose of the survey is to examine the whole position of mentally sub-normal persons who are awaiting admission to hospitals or similar institutions. Attention will also be devoted to the number of patients in hospitals; the amount of overcrowding and the length of stay and a large number of associated problems.

Social research is costly and takes time but it is often the only realistic approach to complex social problems.



"Are you sure this IS for the Spastics Fund?"

FRONT & BACK COVERS

The children on our cover this month appear in one of the Society's new films, "One of the Family" made by Derrick Knight. On the front cover, Graham, the ten-year-old, youngest of three children, is seen with his mother. On the back cover is nine-year-old Stephen, one of the less severely handicapped children in the film.

"One of the Family", scripted and directed by Bernice Rubens, is a half-hour documentary about the Society's new Family Help Unit.

(Photographs by David Farrell)

LOCAL CENTRES

Completed Projects

January/December 1964

Centres Completed

A new Holiday Bungalow at Par in Cornwall, itself a gift to the local Society, opened this summer. The bungalow has been extensively renovated and made into two self-contained flats.

Croydon Group Work Centre. This new centre will cater for up to 30 workers and for a further 10 occupation cases.

The Coventry Society operates a residential home, Penderels, for some 18 young adult spastics. A small prefabricated building has been erected in the grounds to provide space for work activities.

Shrewsbury & District Spastics Group have, with the aid of a capital grant, been able to provide holiday bungalow facilities from a site on the North Wales coast.

Southport holiday hotel was opened by Sir H. Pilkington in August. The hotel caters for spastics and their families and can take up to approximately 16 at one time.

The South East Surrey Group will shortly be operating their new day centre at Redhill. The centre will provide treatment and occupation for children and adults.

Urmston & District Group have a new day centre to replace the old one at Meade House. The new centre will provide care and treatment for children, as well as occu-

pation and care for adults both in and beyond their groups own geographical area.

The Plymouth Association will soon have a hostel which will support their Work Centre.

Extensions to existing Centres

An extension to the Bristol Group's Work Centre will make it easily the largest local group centre in the country, catering ultimately for a maximum daily attendance of up to 150 people.

Ipswich Work Centre has been extended to allow for an increase of 50 per cent in the daily attendance rate.

The Percy Hedley School & Centre has received a substantial grant to allow for extensions to the Work Centre called Chipchase.

The Sale & Altrincham Group will, by the end of the year, be near to completing much needed extensions to their centre at Sale.

Other Grants Paid

In addition to the above, other grants have been made as follows:—

Blackburn & District Spastics Society—for a new ambulance.

Preston & District Spastics Group—for the installation of a lift in their centre.

Cardiff Group—for the purchase of a property for use as a day centre.

St. Loyes College, Exeter—a grant towards their building extensions.

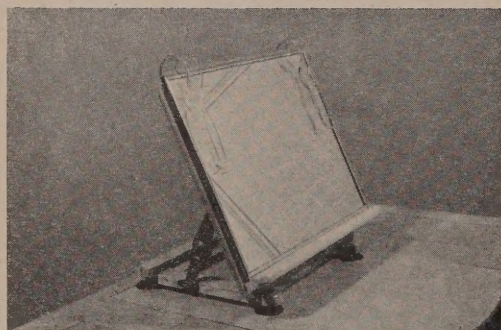
The Maidstone Centre has been extended to allow an increased attendance rate and improved facilities.

AMESBURY SURGICAL APPLIANCES LTD

TELEPHONE 2157

SOUTH MILL ROAD, AMESBURY, WILTS.

Two Useful Additions to the Amesbury Range of Aids for the Handicapped



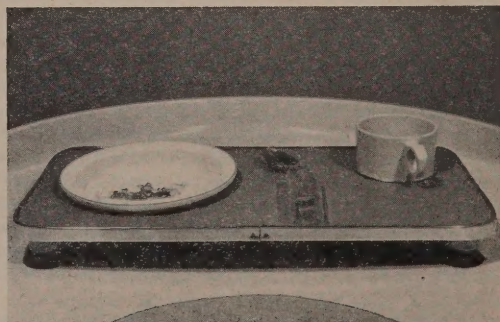
AMESBURY FOLDING BOOKREST with Perspex page clips and suction pads for any smooth surface.

Also speech therapy mirror 11" x 14" useful for Geriatric Wards and those confined to bed.

AMESBURY FEEDING TRAY WITH SUCTION PADS

Specially designed for unsteady hands, Children or Adults

- Useful on smooth surface trays or tables.
- In the kitchen for mixing bowls.
- For the elderly in bed.
- Supplied with plastic plate and cup. (Melamine extra).
- Perspex enlarged handle spoon or fork extra.



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for
illustrated
catalogue*

Successful Day at Croydon

Croydon and District Spastics Society had a most successful day on November 28. Their Annual Christmas Bazaar raised £460, Addington Toc H took £310 with their barrel organ and £45 was taken at The Spastics Shop in High Street, Croydon. A dance was held in the evening which made a profit of £20. A grand total of £1,015.

The Spastics Shop was a new venture by the Society and in its first two weeks sold over £250-worth of cards, jewellery, basketware, IPSO and other Spastic products.

The dance was attended by about 25 pupils from Delarue School, who seemed to enjoy themselves immensely.

Durham Teachers and Therapists Conference

The Spastics Society's Annual Conference is to be held at Grey College, Durham, from 21st to 25th April, 1965. The programme is now nearly completed, and includes a symposium on the idea of sensitive learning periods, two long sessions on education in practice (with talks by teachers in the Society's Schools), and a session on school leavers.

Loans from Park Crescent's Library

The readers of SPASTICS NEWS may not be aware that there is a Reference Library at Park Crescent from which books and information can be obtained.

In addition to technical books about the treatment and education of spastics there are also a number of autobiographies written by spastics. Readers wishing to borrow books should address their requests to the Librarian, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1., stating the title of the book, the author and the publisher. The librarian will also be glad to advise prospective borrowers as to suitable publication covering particular subjects.

S.O.S. Hoy!

The East Dereham Branch of Norfolk & Norwich Spastic Association are still far short of their target of two million Green Shield Trading stamps, to buy a mini-bus.

They haven't much time left—will you help? Send your Green Shield stamps to Mrs. R. Winkler, the White House, Scarning, Norfolk, so that the mini-bus can be ready in time.

Service

is our **middle** name

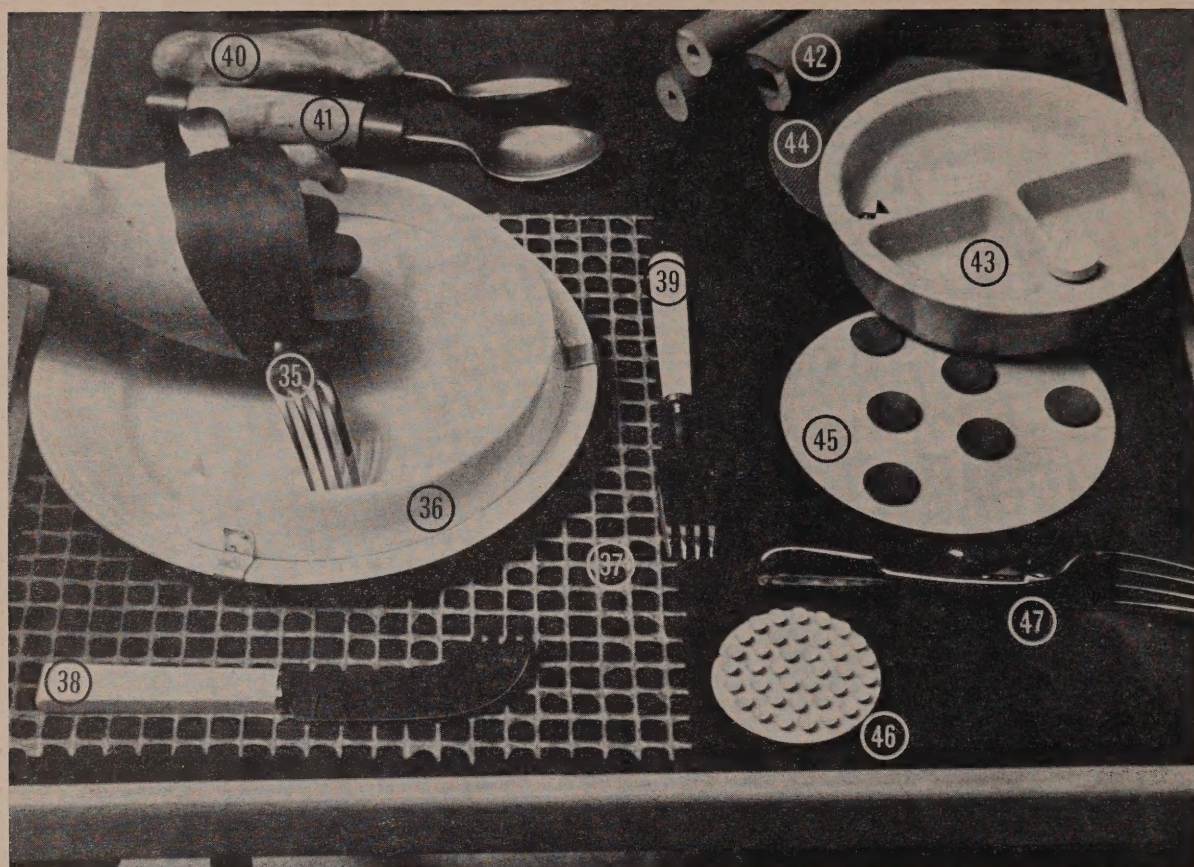
*That's why the Spastics Society buys its
office needs from us. Prices are right too!*



SOCIAL SERVICE SUPPLIES

142 DRUMMOND STREET, LONDON NW1

EUSTON 7808



Aids from Peto Travelling Exhibition, Central Council for the Disabled

(35) The hand in the plate grips a fork that has one sharpened prong for cutting (21s. from the Army & Navy Stores Ltd., Victoria Street, S.W.1). The hand cover to this fork is home-made from leather. (36) Notice the plate buffer obtainable in Perspex from The Red Cross Society (14/15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1, price 4s. 6d.). (37) The plate stands on Latex Netting (7s. 6d. a yard from Nottingham Handicrafts Co., Melton Road, West Bridgeford, Nottingham). (38) Also on this netting is a knife with forked end (Nelson, High Steeper Ltd., Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, London, S.W.15., price 10s. 9d. each, plus 1s. 3d. for postage) and (39) another fork with a broad handle (Red Cross Society, price 4s. 6d.). The spoons above: (40) one with home fashioned handle with Vinagel (from A. Tiranti Ltd., 72 Charlotte Street, London, W.1.), the other wooden handle spoon (41) is 4s. from The Red Cross Society.

On the right-hand side of the photograph (42) you see a number of foam rubber tubes for slipping over handles. These can be bought by the yard from Nottingham Hand-Craft Co. (43) The shaped feeder with the hot water jacket (Boots, approximately 10s.) is sitting half on (44) the pimple rubber mat (ping-pong bat rubber from 283 Grays Inn Road, W.C.1, for 5s. a yard) and half on (45) a double suction mat from Medico-Therapeutics Ltd., 44 Connaught Gardens, London, N.13. (46) The octopus suction

mat below is made as a bath soap holder, but can be used to secure china. It costs 2s. 6d. from Selfridges, Oxford Street.

(47) The fork in between these mats is from P. V. O'Neill, 2 Anndale Shopping Centre, Shipley, Yorkshire, and costs 31s. 6d. It has a cutter wheel attached to the back of the fork.

(48) This is a feeding tray made by Amesbury Surgical Appliances Ltd., Amesbury, Wilts, and costs £1 17s. 6d.

Any enquiries to the Appliance Officer, 12 Park Crescent, W.1.



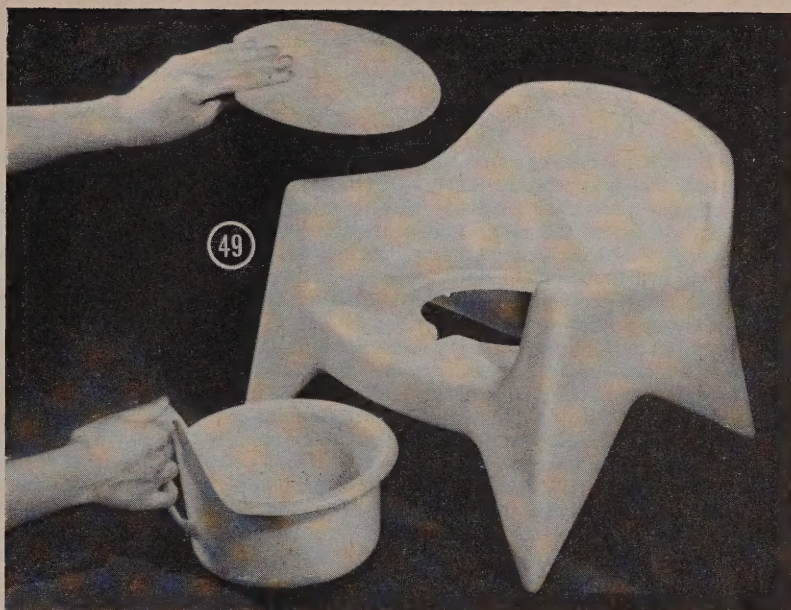
GIMMICKS

(49) This child's commode is used at the White Lodge Centre, Chertsey, and Mrs. Marler writes: "With reference to the Jury Bambino Toilette Chair, we are very pleased indeed with this. It has great stability, thus giving the child complete confidence. There is good back support and it also supports the arms. The handle on the commode forms a pommel which keeps the legs separated."

"A child can be left alone on it for a short period whereas he could not be left alone on an ordinary toilet seat. Further, the potty can be removed and the lid fits securely over the aperture, thus making it possible to use the

commode as a chair when necessary.

"The commode is very easy to clean and is in nice bright colours."



The Bambino Toilette Chair costs 45s. from The Kaymet Company, Kaymet Works, Sylvan Grove, S.E.15, and come in blue, pink and yellow.



an all-purpose transit chair that weighs only 36 lb.

The VESSA is a robust, all-purpose transit chair, designed to give a new degree of mobility with reduced effort. Its low weight—36 pounds—low cost—£37/18/6—and adaptability make it an excellent choice for home and outdoor use.

standard model includes

- adjustable footrests easily removed and replaced
- specially designed detachable padded armrests available in alternative arm heights (at no extra cost) are also reversible for simple fitting of tray
- mechanism designed with easy folding of chair in mind
- 24" wheels with cushion tyres and 8" castors—excellent manoeuvrability
- lightweight steel and aluminium tubing for total chair weight of only 36 pounds
- chromium plated finish for easy cleaning



Regd. Design

THE VESSA FOLDING WHEELCHAIR

opens up new avenues of comfort and convenience for the disabled

Write for further details to VESSA LTD., ALTON, HANTS

As I See It

by Patricia Latham

MOST of us have come across the type of personalised article which appears regularly these days in the so-called popular press. This usually reveals a lamentable lack of knowledge on the part of the writer, is shamelessly subjective, and uses the personal pronoun constantly. But to my mind it has one outstanding virtue—it usually deals with an isolated period in the life of the writer and invariably begins with a succinct statement of fact, such as “I was a Juvenile Delinquent”, or, “I was a Secret Drinker”, which pitchforks the reader straight into the subject in hand. For this reason I feel the style to be tailor-made for my purpose—the rather difficult one of attempting to record impressions gained during the past two months when “I was a Trainee Regional Officer.”

The size and scope of the Society were brought home to me forcibly on reading my training schedule, for this allocated two weeks to the initial business of meeting heads of departments and their staff. At the end of this period I must admit I was suffering from mental indigestion. Everyone had been most kind and patient, and I had listened attentively day after day to detailed descriptions of different aspects of the Society's work, but it was as if a complicated jig-saw puzzle had been turned face down on the table before me. How all the pieces interlocked and where I personally fitted into the picture, remained a mystery. There seemed to be too much for any one mind to take in all at once. Fortunately this had been foreseen by my own Head of Department, and in the company of two other Trainee Regional Officers, I was dispatched on a series of visits to national schools and centres all over the country. I was able to spend time at each place and to talk with principals and wardens, watch them at work and see how things were done.

At the end of two months of constant travelling, my most outstanding reaction was sheer amazement at the amount achieved by the Society in the brief twelve years of its existence. Most commercial organisations expanding as rapidly as this seek refuge in standardisation, but I was surprised to find that the only constant factor seemed to be in the use of the best possible quality in all things. There also seemed to be an appreciation of contemporary design and a preference for prefabricated building methods, with their ability to be changed, to expand, or to contract, as the needs arose. My one criticism in this area was that perhaps the interior decoration of many of the residential Centres reached too high a standard. But I was impressed by the detailed planning which had obviously gone into every Centre, and in the provision of down-to-earth answers to all the highly individual day-to-day problems of the handicapped. Nowhere did I see the mass approach which is a growing menace in all our lives, and it is in this recognition of the essential needs of the individual, however handicapped he may be, that I feel the Society is making its unique and most valuable contribution. At no time does it appear to be content just to provide institution-type care. That is obviously the job of the local authority. As I see it, the Society operates best in the wide unknown areas of imaginative help and experiment, finding and filling the gaps left between the needs of the individual and the care provided by the Welfare State,

having the freedom to experiment, the courage to proceed by trial and error, and the imagination to pursue entirely new avenues of approach. I feel that all the work of the Society is based upon the premise that the need of the spastic is basically no different from that of the ordinary person, who wants to live as full a life as possible, experience achievement, and know happiness. The Society never tries to *shelter* the spastic from reality, but rather endeavours to help him to accept and live with his handicap.

In the past, a person was categorised by his degree of disability. Today, as a result of the Society's work, it seems that he is assessed by his potential, however hard it may be to find this out. Indeed, I feel that this emphasis upon skilled assessment for spastics might well be the most important of all innovations brought about by the Society. I discovered how extremely difficult this work can be on visiting Hawksworth Hall, and obviously more research into methods of assessment and communication must continue for a very long time. But these methods can only be discovered in a climate conducive to producing the fullest response of which a child is capable, and this is provided at Hawksworth. Long-term assessment of this nature would seem to be a province in which only a voluntary society could operate successfully.

Again, in the establishment of Inglefield Manor School for the multi-handicapped child with both mental and physical disabilities, the Society has brought education within the reach of many who, only a few years ago, would not have been considered capable of being helped at all. This, I feel, is pioneer work of the utmost importance, and I was deeply impressed by the patience exhibited, not only by the teaching staff at Ingfield, but by the children themselves. Their progress is so hard and slow, their learning difficulties are so numerous, and their triumphs so un-spectacular.

At the other end of the scale stands Oakwood at Kelvedon. That young people as severely handicapped as many I met here, should be encouraged to make their contribution to the community through the medium of ideas, the arts and the sciences, seems to be the type of challenge which only an inveterate gambler would tackle, and yet here too, the Society's courage is paying off, maybe without spectacular results as yet, but the possibilities within such a framework are obvious.

The same highly experimental approach is evident at Dene Park, where I found the familiar expression “Further Education” to mean something entirely different. I cannot imagine a local authority being able to provide instruction in the so-called simple business of living, yet this is an obvious need for those spastic teenagers whose disabilities have forced them to lead intensely sheltered lives, often over-protected by their parents and now at a loss to know how to cope with the complexities of modern living. I feel this to be an outstanding example of the Society's function in filling the gaps left in the provision for education of the handicapped.

Yet another example is the Family Help Unit at Nottingham, which, I understand, is the first of its kind in the world, and a major contribution in the growing area

known as community care. The Society obviously recognises the heavy burden which falls upon the parents and family of a handicapped child, and that if their physical and mental health is to be maintained, it is essential that some help and relief be given to them, as well as to the spastic himself.

I was interested to find out what special function the Society could play in satisfying the basic need of most people, even those heavily handicapped, to earn a living and to relieve them of feeling themselves to be a burden on their families and the community in general.

Sherrards provided one impressive answer. First of all it seemed a stroke of inspiration to establish this Industrial Training Centre just off the busy A.1 road in the middle of Welwyn Garden City within easy access of the trading estate there. It seemed to be yet one more deliberate swing away from over-protection, and in addition to practical training, every effort was being made to give the young spastic self-confidence—to aid his maturity—and make him ready for a real job in the future. To place the residential part of the Centre away from the workshop, so that trainees have to go out to work each day, clock in and out and submit to the usual factory discipline, even to having a system of fines for bad timekeeping, impressed me almost more than the actual physical training—although this was first-class—because it was yet another example of the *understanding* which seems to accompany even the most practical aspects of the Society's work.

I was also intrigued to see how many commercial factory jobs were skilfully broken down into any number of individual functions so as to be within the collective capabilities of the trainees. The fact that this Training Centre manages to carry out commercial sub-contract work for local industries, including Ford Motors, must provide a wonderful stimulus. I was told that over a thousand spastic boys and girls reach working age each year, and although many of the luckier ones are found employment by special officers of the Ministry of Labour and Youth Employment Service, there is still a great deal to be done by the Society for the less fortunate. Hundreds of severely handicapped young adults have passed through the Society's Employment Department, first receiving vocational assessment and guidance, and after training, helped into full-time jobs in open industry. But here again, the Society has been far-sighted enough to realise that even after this specialised care, a percentage of young people will still not make the grade, and to bridge yet another gap, have provided sheltered workshops with residential hostels attached. The principal of not bothering about what one can't do, but just concentrating on what one can do, also seems to run through the Office Training Centre at Chester. But one of the things which particularly impressed me here, was the fact that pupils were allowed to come for a period of training in one particular aspect of clerical work, then, after leaving and working in this maybe rather narrow and repetitive field for a year or two and gaining confidence, were enabled to come back for a further spell of training before going on to a more ambitious job.

The expense, difficulty, and possibly embarrassment attached to taking a severely handicapped member of the family to an ordinary hotel, usually meant that many spastics, and in some cases their families as well, never knew the ordinary pleasure of a seaside holiday. So by this time it didn't surprise me when I learned that yet another area in which the Society operates is in the pro-

vision of Holiday Homes, and the flexibility which characterises so many aspects of the Society's work I found to continue in their use of these Homes during the winter time as places for the short-term care of severely handicapped people during a period of sickness or emergency in their homes.

After many more visits to schools and centres of all kinds (far too many to enumerate here) I found the dis-united pieces of the jig-saw puzzle had begun to come together of their own accord. That the Society had not sprung, Minerva-like, from a single-mind, was obvious. Many, many people must have contributed to the building of its complicated structure, to the formulating of its policies. Many hands must have helped towards its variegated achievements. The original company of four had literally raised an army of helpers all over the country. Groups of parents and public-spirited people must have sunk their personal views and local interests in order, unitedly, to build up a national organisation. They must have been far-sighted enough to realise that only a national organisation would be capable of raising the large sums of money necessary to carry out the extensive programme required.

And now, at long last, the mists surrounding my personal position were beginning to clear. I could see where the Regional Officer fitted into the general scheme of things. His role is necessarily complex and intangible, for he has to face both ways and be the representative of the Groups to the Society and the representative of the Society, not only to the Group but to the general public as well. He must make himself a multi-lateral channel of communication—a clearing house of ideas and information. But above all other tasks he must provide a liaison which will help to hold together the pieces of the puzzle so that, collectively, they may form the complete picture.



**Mrs. Patricia
Latham**

London R.O.

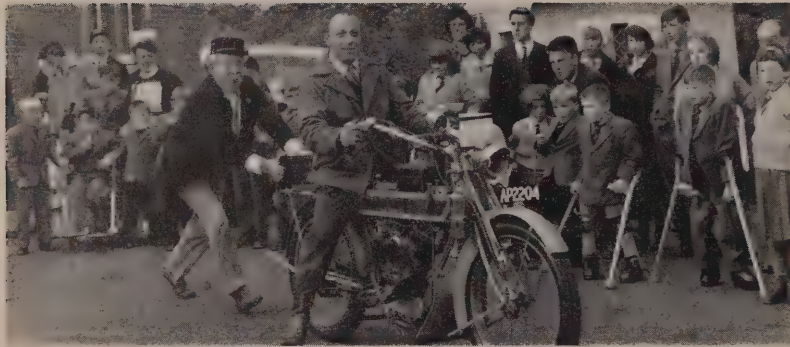
Mrs. Patricia Latham has been appointed Regional Officer for the London Region.

She was educated at St. Leonard's School and is a graduate of London University.

Most of her working life to date has been spent in public relations and as a scriptwriter and director of specialised films. She was one of the original group set up by the Rank Organization which pioneered the making of specially produced entertainment films for children. She has also travelled and worked in many different parts of the world as a film journalist making documentaries. For the past seven years she has been living in Toronto, Canada, writing and producing for American and Canadian television on both entertainment and educational channels.

She is 41 years of age and a widow.

Mr. Pastry Plays on the Bluebell Railway



Children from the Delarue School and from Ingfield Manor were among the 150 handicapped boys and girls who spent an exciting day out with "Mr. Pastry" on the privately-run "Bluebell" Railway.

ABOVE: *They ride on an old fire engine*

LEFT: *"Mr. Pastry" helps start a 1912 Matchless motor-cycle*

BELOW, LEFT: *They all enjoy a joke together*



The railway enthusiast waiting for "Mr. Pastry's" autograph is Andrew Benson of Delarue who is writing the history of the Midhurst Branch Railway

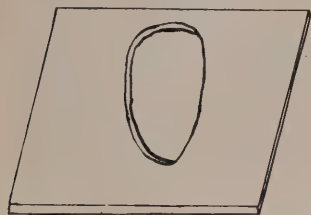
TOUCHING UP A WHEELCHAIR

by Jack Grayson

THIS one is not so much a gimmick, as a snag with a relaxation chair with a toilet seat, with which we were supplied many years ago.

The snag with the toilet seat whilst being very well made, the hole being the customary size and shape, that is circular, was much too big in width for our daughter. Being narrow in the flanks she used almost to sit through it.

I sent the toilet seat back to the manufacturers with a pattern of what I thought would be more suitable, this being:—



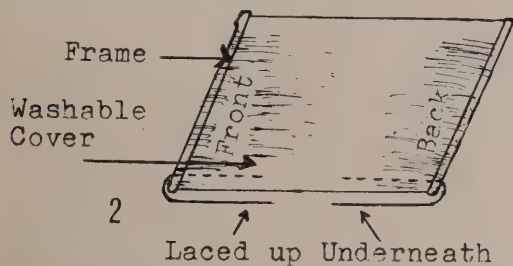
Narrow in width but plenty of length to support a child who may be narrow in the flanks.

1

I received a very nice letter by return from the manufacturers, who also sent a replacement toilet seat made exactly to shape I required, and this proved to be much more comfortable, giving support to the thighs.

As many badly handicapped children will spend quite a bit of time on a commode, I think the shape of the hole can be important. (It prevented Carol from having the skin scraped off the bottom of her back, by preventing her slipping down the hole, and if a child is comfortably seated he does his "duty" quicker.)

Another point about this chair—the frame seat had a removable washable cover which fitted round the seat frame, from front to back.



2

Laced up Underneath

"Wider Horizons"

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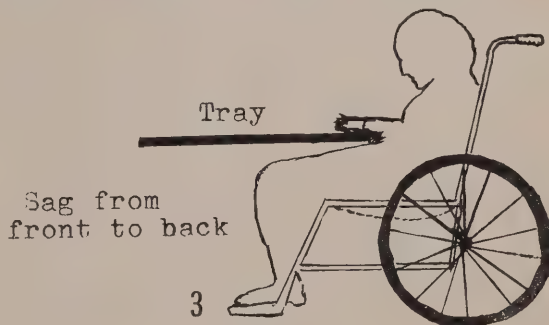
Write to the Secretary, Mrs. M. Beck, Beechwood, St. John's Avenue, Tyer's Green, PENN, Bucks.

The Spastic Fellowship Magazine

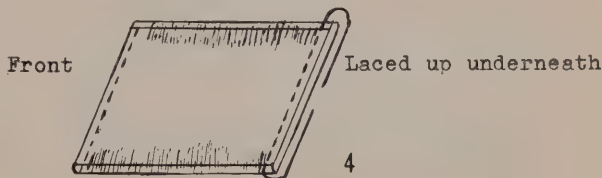
If you like the SPASTIC NEWS, you will enjoy *The Spastic Fellowship Magazine*, published in Liverpool. It comes out five times a year and the annual subscription is 5s.

Send your subscription to: Miss A. Angers, 36 Greenbank Road, Liverpool, 18, and give yourself or your friends a present of interesting and amusing reading matter all year.

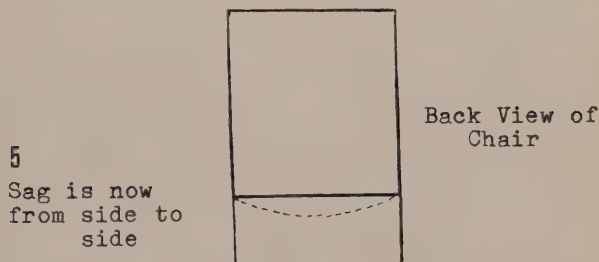
The trouble here was the cover sagged a little in the centre and this made the child slip forward into the centre, a difficult position for trying to play on the tray.



I adapted the cover to fit round the seat frame from side frame to side, as:—



The sag in the cover now doesn't matter as it is from side to side and not back to front, and helps to avoid the slipping forward:—



It helped when the chair was in the normal position for playing on the tray.

Roughly Halfway

by John Tinsley

ACCORDING to the Bible, the average length of one's life is said to be Three Score and Ten, or seventy years. Whether, in the light of up to date medical knowledge, this estimate still holds water I just wouldn't know. However I could not help remembering the old saying a few months ago when I celebrated my thirty-fifth birthday. Soberly I reflected upon the fact that, if I might borrow an expression from the world of football, I had now begun the second half. Furthermore, just as a footballer will pause at half-time to consider the first half of the game to see where he has made mistakes and where he could do better in the future, so it seemed a good idea for me also to pause and consider my first half. Perhaps some of you would like to share some of my reflections on that occasion. You may find some of them your own.

I suppose it is only true to say that the one predominate factor in my thirty-five years is that I have been a spastic from birth. That is to say that I have never known any other sort of life than that of a handicapped person. It is within this context that my life has had to be lived. The extent of my disability is I feel a matter of proportion. For my part I think I have been luckier than very many of my friends, who are much more handicapped than I am.

Up to the age of eight I seemed to imagine that the best way to see the world was from ground level. I crawled around the floor on my hands and knees; rough going on the old kneecaps. Then I went into an orthopaedic hospital for treatment. Here they got me to walk . . . after a fashion. Although I do stagger around like someone who has had one over the eight, at least I have not been condemned, like so many of my friends, to life in a wheelchair.

I can dress myself with the exception of my collar and tie. I can also feed myself, when I have my meal set out on a good solid dining table. I am afraid I am not the sort of person you invite to afternoon tea in the drawing room with the best china.

Like many other spastics, I have not overcome the habit of drooling. I dribble especially when I am trying to do any work; such as typing. It used to be said for a joke that as half the football teams in the country were looking for good dribblers, they should hire a few of us spastics. We were experts.

The fact that very few people can really understand what I am saying is the biggest cross I have to bear. Only recently I have been having some speech therapy, but we spastics are creatures of habits, mostly bad ones, and I am finding it hard to break some of the bad habits I have accumulated in half a lifetime. Not being able to make myself understood is very frustrating at times. However I do remember one occasion when it became hilarious. I had gone into town on my cycle chair, and had the misfortune to tip it over on the road. I had not hurt myself very much, but I had attracted the notice of the general public. Quite a crowd gathered round me, none of whom understood me when I tried to explain that I was unhurt. One dear old lady was determined to see the

thing through to the bitter end: she called a policeman, who in turn called an ambulance. Before I knew where I was, I was being whipped away to the local hospital . . . accompanied by the dear old lady. For some reason it was thought that I had damaged my head. I was taken along to the hospital's X-ray room, and my head had been X-rayed before I could make people understand who and what I was.

It is, I am very sorry to say, a well-known fact that many spastics suffer from bad tempers: I am one of them. However most of my friends know by now that, if I do fly off the handle, it is always I who receive the worst of it in the end, and feel the shame and stupidity of it all afterwards. When one has cooled down one has to go round making limp apologies, which never really make up for one's bad behaviour.

During the early part of my life, I lived at home. My mother had to go out to work, and so I was brought up by my grandmother, although I do assure you my mother always took over the mammoth task whenever she came home from work. We lived in Middlesbrough in Yorkshire, where I was born. I can claim to be a Yorkshireman, but only just. While living in Middlesbrough I never went to school: it was my grandmother who first taught me to read. By reading aloud to me herself, she made me grow familiar with the words. Soon I was able to pick up the book and read it for myself, after I had just about driven poor grandma to the limits of her vocal strength.

All this took place long before the days of the National Spastics Society or any of its counterparts, so there were no schools run especially for spastic children. Instead I went to one of the Shaftesbury Society's schools for seriously handicapped boys near Wellingborough, Northants. I was there for two years and this was the only education I ever received.

I am a Roman Catholic by faith, and since 1945 I have been looked after by the Brothers of St. John of God, first in their hospital at Scorton, near Richmond, Yorks, and for the past eight years in their hospital at Croft, near Darlington, Co. Durham. The Brothers are a religious order of male nurses. They have hospitals throughout the world, and care for both the mentally and physically sick. St. Cuthbert's Hospital at Croft is one of four hospitals run by the Brothers in England. Here they look after many young spastic and muscular dystrophy cases.

A revolution came in my life a few years ago when I discovered that I could use a typewriter. Up till this time writing for me had been a laborious business performed with a lead pencil; one end blunt and the other end chewed. I usually took about two hours to write one page, which would end up by being so smudged with the sweat of my effort that it would be barely readable. Business letters and letters to people who did not know me very well had to be written for me. One could hardly expect everyone to be willing to wash their morning mail in "Ipsa" before reading it! Taking all this into consideration, one would have thought that the last thing I would want to take up

as a hobby would be any form of writing, but I'm one of those awkward individuals. Even before I could type I was lucky enough to have two articles published by the Liverpool Spastic Fellowship Magazine. I once dictated to a friend a Nativity Story, and it gained for me the great, but undeserved honour of receiving a letter from Christopher Fry telling me I have the "power of words". I have also had the somewhat startling experience of hearing some of my work broadcast a few years ago, once in the "Silver Lining" programme, and another time in "Lift up your Hearts". I listened to these broadcasts with very mixed feelings.

I now edit the Magazine for the Friends of the Hospital, who hope one day to build us a therapeutic bath. Readers of the SPASTICS NEWS may have seen our advertisement in the April issue. We call our Magazine "Rockcliffe" after Rockcliffe Park where we live. This was once the stately home of Lord Southampton. I have as my sub-editor Peter Jackson, another spastic, who is strapped all day in his wheelchair, but who has still managed to master the use of an electric typewriter. Peter has a great love of sport, and is therefore our sports correspondent. Another Peter, badly handicapped with polio, writes short stories for us, so you see we are quite a team. A committee has been formed by the Friends of the Hospital to help with distributing, etc. The Chairman is yet another patient in the hospital . . . One who can just about manage to understand what it is the Editor is saying. Since we started the Magazine, the Editor of our local newspaper, *The Northern Echo*, has shown a great interest in the Magazine, has been a very great help to us in arranging for it to be printed and so forth. He also sits on the committee, which he usually turns into an entertainment. One marvels how he can find the time, as he is an extremely busy man, and very often seen on TV. up here in the north.

In each issue of the Magazine we try to have a Guest Page written by a famous personality. We were thrilled to bits when Harry Secombe wrote an article for the summer issue last year. We have also had articles by Anthony Asquith, the film director, and Alan Melville, who wrote about the Stars' Organisation for Spastics.

Before I close I would just like to say this. I do not consider this, in any way, to be a success story, because I feel that many other people with my same disability have done very much better than I will ever do. Many of my days have been wasted. I can only hope and pray that, if God spares me to live the full span of my life, I will do a little better in the second half, than I have done in the first.

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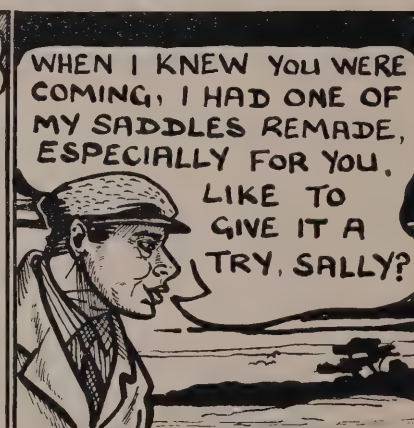
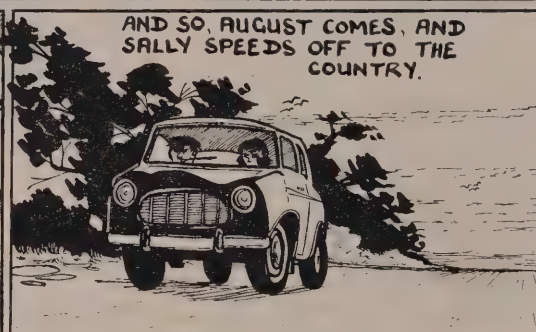
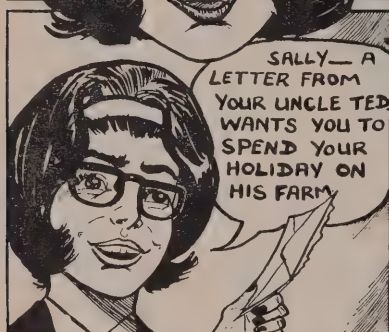
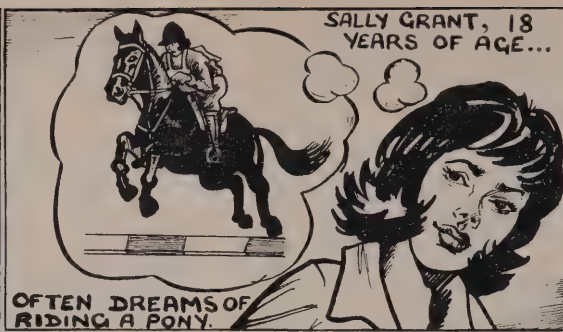
The Magazine of St. Cuthbert's Hospital,
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WRITE NOW FOR SPRING ISSUE



A More Comprehensive Advisory Service for Local Groups

WHEN the Services Departments at Park Crescent were grouped together some four years ago they were five in number and represented the five most important areas of this part of the Society's work:

- (1) Schools and Centres;
- (2) Local Centres;
- (3) Industrial Centres;
- (4) Social Work;
- (5) Employment for Spastics.

This arrangement of work enabled us to expand services quickly at a time when rapid expansion was essential and it provided the simplest way of training new staff.

However, the Society has moved forward since those days. Expansion is still vital but we have learnt a great deal about the ways and means of achieving it. A few months ago, it was decided to combine the Social Work and Careers and Employment Department and very recently it has been decided to abolish the three "project" departments which have existed for the past four years and to create in their place two new departments; one of which will be concerned entirely with development and the other with administration of national centres and advice to Groups. The first department will be called the Development Department and will be headed by Mr. D. Lancaster-Gaye, and the other department will be called the Schools & Centres Department and will be headed by Mrs. C. A. Clifton.

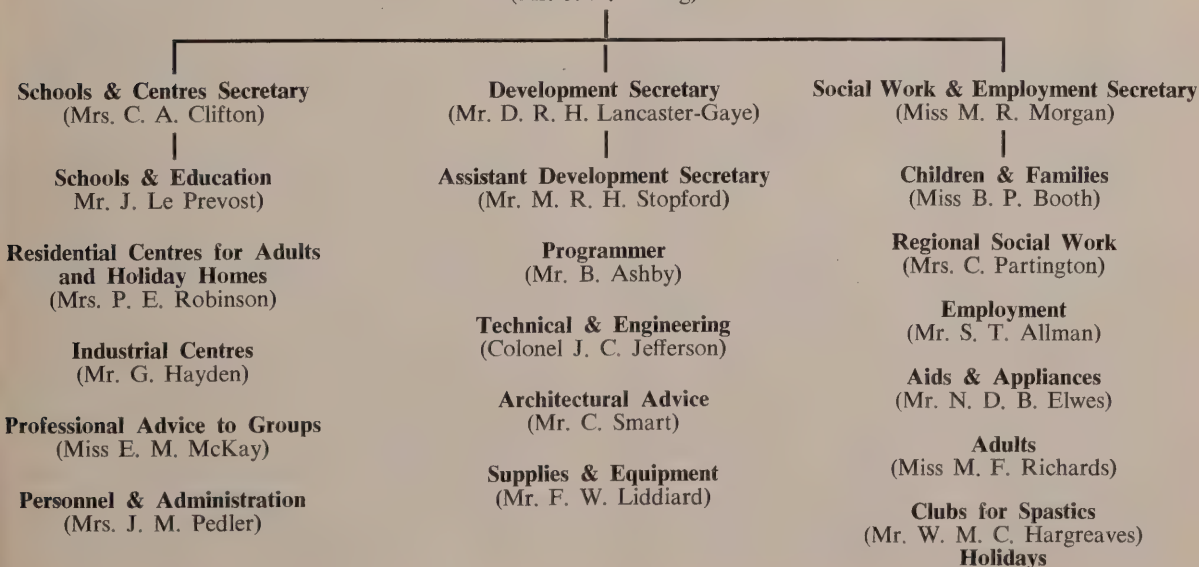
One of the advantages of this new arrangement is that expertise obtained in nationally controlled schools and centres will be more readily available to local centres and senior members of staff specialising in certain fields such as education, will now be in a better position to advise Local Groups and centres. A further advantage will be that planning skills learnt over the years can now be deployed in a single department specialising in new developments.

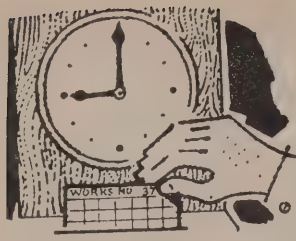
A new post, that of Assistant Secretary (Professional Advisory Service), has been created in the Schools and Centres Department and Miss E. McKay has been transferred to this post with special responsibility for assisting Mrs. Clifton in her work with Local Groups. Colonel J. C. Jefferson, O.B.E., M.I.E.E., M.B.I.M., formerly Industrial Centres Secretary, has now been appointed Technical and Engineering Adviser to the Society and has joined the new Development Department.

This redeployment of existing staff will expand the range of advisory services available to Local Groups and it is hoped that all concerned will make full use of the services now available. Under the new arrangements, Groups requiring advice about proposals for new centres or extensions to existing centres, should deal direct with the Development Secretary. Local Groups requiring advice on the running of existing local centres or services should deal direct with the Schools and Centres Secretary. It might be helpful to readers to have a family tree:—

SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

Assistant Director, Services
(Mr. J. A. Loring)





SPASTICS AT WORK

Jennifer Abbott from London, who attended an assessment course during the summer, is now employed as an office junior.

Connie Adams from Birmingham commenced work in September for a local firm.

Edward Armstrong from Harlesden has changed his job and is now working as a handyman in a local store.

George Barrows from Barkingside is employed as a labourer by a local firm.

Janet Bean from London, who has just left the Thomas Delarue School, is working in Goldsmiths Hall for a trial period of three months. Her job consists of weighing and marking gold.

Michael Bonnor from Maidstone is employed as a junior porter in a local furniture store.

Freda Borer from Braintree, who trained at Sherrards, has commenced work on a trial basis in a local laundry.

Colin Bowen from Birmingham has changed his job and is now employed at a local Rempoy.

Malcolm Brabon from Marden is working for a local firm doing light electrical assembling and routine clerical duties.

Carol Brazier from Cramlington has commenced work in a sweet factory.

John Brentnall from Heanor has been accepted for work at Rempoy in Alfreton.

Richard Broadhead from London has recently commenced employment.

Robert Burrington from Welwyn Garden City has changed his job and is now employed as a laboratory assistant by I.C.I.

Mary Butler has changed her job and is now doing bench work for a firm in Berkhamsted.

Andrew Caddell from Birmingham has been running his own shop there for some time.

Anthony Campbell from Slough, who trained at Sherrards, is working as a tool room improver and grinder for a local manufacturers.

Warren Champ from Kenton is now working at the General Electric Company in Wembley.

Kevin Clarke from York, who trained at Sherrards, is employed as storekeeper by a local firm.

Diana Cockburn from Frome has changed her work and is now employed by an engineering firm locally. She trained at Sherrards and her work consists of making fuses for lighting equipment.

Philip Cove from East Dereham, who attended a recent Assessment Course, is employed as an injection moulder by a firm in Uxbridge.

Cornelius Curley from Northampton, who trained at Sherrards, has started a trial period of employment with the Express Lift Co. in Northampton.

Moir Davies from Ammanford, who recently trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is working in a local footwear factory.

Graham Dineley from Chelston is working as a stockroom assistant for a local chain store.

Errol Dixon from Brockley, who attended an assessment course during the summer, has found work as a gardener on a trial basis whilst awaiting a vacancy at Sherrards.

Keith Easton from Chudleigh commenced employment with the Teign Valley Concrete Company in June.

Frederick Egan from London has commenced employment with the Hospital Administration Board. He is doing general office work.

Sylvia Fade from Southall, who attended the Society's Further Education Course at Dene Park, is doing a job in a hospital workshop whilst awaiting a vacancy at Sherrards.

Mary Fitton from Stockport, who trained for a short time at the Chester Office Training Centre, has commenced a trial period of employment at a local school, where she does post duties, tea-making, etc.

Colin Fitzgerald from Haywards Heath has changed his job and is now working as a drilling operator for a manufacturing concern in Crawley.

Terence Frankel from London, who trained at Sherrards for a short time, has commenced work on a trial basis as a capstan lathe operator.

Alan Gall from Swindon has changed his work and has now been re-engaged by his previous employers in Mill Hill.

Mary Gander from Surrey has changed her job and is now employed in a Wimpy Bar in Redhill.

Richard Giles from Solihull commenced a trial period of employment as a general handyman in a local cinema.

Stephen Gordon from New Crofton has a new job on a trial basis—he is doing spot welding.

Barbara Gornall from Penrith, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is working on general clerical duties and serving at the counter in a local shop.

Ian Grant from Newark has been re-engaged by his former employers—ball-bearing manufacturers.

David Gray from Middleton St. George, near Darlington, is employed as a trainee storeman by a firm of agricultural engineers.

Patricia Green from Darlington, who trained at Sherrards, has commenced a three months trial period of employment as a general domestic at Ingfield Manor School.

Richard Griffiths from Bishop's Stortford, who trained at Sherrards, is employed as an assembly worker in a local manufacturing concern.

Michael Hammersley from Battersea has changed his job and is now employed as a capstan lathe operator by a local firm. He trained at Sherrards.

Michael Harker from Stoneleigh, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is employed by a firm of stockbrokers in London. He is doing clerical work and messenger duties.

Trevor Hawkins from Codnor has been accepted for work at Rempoy in Alfreton.

Colin Hayman from Bridgwater, who attended a recent assessment course in Devon, is working as a tea-boy for a local building firm.

Ronald Hodgkin from East Ham is working as a gardener in Woolwich.

Linda Hodson from Manchester, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is employed as a clerk/typist for a chemical concern in Clayton.

Leonard Holl from Birmingham has changed his job and is now working for the Birmingham Housing Committee.

Brenda Holmes from Carlisle, who trained at Sherrards, has a new job as an assembler in the crash helmet department of a firm in Carlisle.

Dennis James from Bridstow is working in Ross-on-Wye. He does trimming of rubber goods.

Alan Johnson from Clitheroe has been accepted for a six-months trial period in the apprentice shop of the English Electric Co. in Accrington.

Malvene Lewis from Porth, who attended an assessment course in August, is working locally on routine assembly work for a factory producing television aerials.

George Linford from Romford has changed his job and is now working locally as a stores assistant.

John Marks from Exeter, who trained at Sherrards, has obtained work with a firm in Exeter.

Brenda Marshall from Belvedere has changed her job and is working on a trial basis for a firm in London, as a Tickopres operator.

Gloria Meredith from Chorley, who trained at Sherrards, has changed her job and is now employed as a resident domestic worker at Daresbury Hall.

Robert Moody from London has been engaged as a printing machine operator for a trial period of employment by a firm of structural engineers in Battersea. He attended an assessment course in the late summer.

Albert Moore from London, who trained at Messrs. J. Lucas, Birmingham, is doing sub-assembly work for a firm in Acton.

Wendy Morton from St. Leonards has changed her job and is now doing domestic work at Ingfield Manor School for a trial period of three months.

John Mullarkey from Seaforth has commenced work as a cleaner for a firm of polythene bag manufacturers in Liverpool.

Katherine Newton from Birmingham is working at the local Remploy.

Robert Oldfield from Wallasey, who trained at Messrs. Joseph Lucas, Birmingham, is employed on inspection work for a firm in Birkenhead.

George Osbaldeston from Oswaldtwistle, who was a member of the 1964 Assessment Course Cruise in March, is working on a permanent basis for a manufacturing concern in Accrington.

Ronald Overage from Welling has commenced work at Sainsburys.

Philip Palmer from Market Harborough has commenced full-time employment locally.

Frances Payne from Old Woodstock, who trained at Sherrards is doing electronic assembly work for a firm in South Ruislip.

Timothy Pickles from Brighton has changed his job and is now working for an optical company in Hove.

David Pole from Leicester is working for a trial period for a local nurseryman.

Anthony Proverbs from Birmingham is working for a trial period as a stock rack clerk for a manufacturing concern in Oldbury.

Peter Reed from Nottingham, who trained at Sherrards, has commenced work as a centre lathe operator for a firm in St. Mary Cray.

Huw Roberts from Aberystwyth will be working as a duplicating machine operator for the Cardiganshire County Council, after a short "refresher" course at the Chester Office Training Centre.

Barbara Robinson from Liverpool, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is working as a junior clerk for a nearby laundry.

Valerie Robinson from Cambridge is now employed in the office of a local store.

Elaine Scott from London, who was a member of the 1963 Assessment Course Cruise, is now working as a filing clerk.

Brian Scovell from Tunbridge Wells is employed locally as a filing clerk by a firm of chartered accountants. He trained at the Chester Office Training Centre.

Robert Simmonds from East Barnet has changed his job and now works for a firm in Potters Bar. He trained at Messrs. Joseph Lucas in Birmingham.

Suzanne Sinclair from Norwich has re-commenced work with her former employers.

Dawn Smith from Bexleyheath who trained at Sherrards is working as a resident domestic help in Ingfield Manor School.

Gordon Smith from Avening, who attended an assessment course during the summer, is working in a local store.

Jean Kyle-Smith from Steyning, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is working as a Tickopres operator for a firm in Brighton.

Joan Smith from Surrey is working on a trial basis for a firm in Redhill—her work consists of packing Brillo pads.

Pauline Smith from Portsmouth is employed by the Bell Punch Co. Ltd., in Uxbridge. Her work consists of filing metal surfaces.

Christopher Sollitt from Leeds, who trained at Messrs. Joseph Lucas, Birmingham, is doing drilling and capstan lathe operating for a small engineering firm in Leeds.

Ronald Stratford from Eastcote has commenced a trial period of employment for the Bell Punch Co. Ltd.

William Sutton from Moreton, Cheshire, is working for a market gardener in Meols. He attended a recent assessment course.

Ann Swiffen from Bideford, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is employed on the inspection of finished garments by a local dress manufacturing firm.

Annette Thelwell from Chester is employed in a local hotel. Her duties consist of setting trays and making beds.

MARRIAGES

Audrey Hamilton, formerly living at St. Georges, Harrogate, married Mr. Eric Steele, also from St. Georges. They have moved to a home of their own in Harrogate.

Joyce Springett from London, married Mr. Partridge, also of London.

Phyllis Taylor, formerly living at Yateley Industries, has now married and moved to Doncaster.

Dawn Smith, who trained at Sherrards, married John Martin, former driver/handyman at Sherrards.

Congratulations to **Glenys Jones** (née Bell), formerly of Gateshead, and her husband, on the birth of a baby daughter. They are now living in Welling, Kent.



SLOW MOTION



by Ann Pearce

This month we begin publishing Ann's story from birth to her present life as a 22-year-old at Coombe Farm. Ann has chosen her own title (she's been writing her story for seven years and knows about patience,) and we think you will find this account, with its reflections on one person's growing life of the Society's own growing, as absorbingly interesting as it is observant, painstaking and individual.

I WAS born on March 27, 1942, in a Guildford hospital. At the time of my birth my father was fighting overseas in the Army and so it was a few years before we met.

Although I was born handicapped this wasn't noticed until I was about a year old. Even then the extent of my disability wasn't known and it was several years before I was diagnosed as an athetoid. After about two years my mother attended a clinic at Guildford with me: at this time I was not able to sit, walk or use my hands and my speech development wasn't normal: my mouth was twisted too, but as I grew older this straightened itself. Unfortunately the treatment I received was not what I needed so after a while this was abandoned.

Day Nursery

Soon after this I went to a day nursery quite near home for a couple of years. I don't remember much about it but although I was the only handicapped child there I was very happy and made friends with the other children. My mother was working all day at this time so she took me in the morning and collected me in the evening on her way home. Although I was handicapped I still wasn't able to stay after I was five years old, when the other children left to start school.

Residential School

At that time schools for physically handicapped children were few and far between, but I was lucky—through our local doctor my mother arranged for me to go to a residential school at Carshalton. This was quite near my home so my parents (my father was now home from the war), were able to come and see me nearly every week. We had all the usual lessons; I particularly enjoyed painting and swimming. We went to the local baths once a week in

a lorry and had a lot of fun learning to swim, or perhaps just playing about in the water. Regularly each week we had speech and physiotherapy treatment. Our exercises were made more interesting by putting them to nursery rhymes. It was here that I met Miss Rowell who was to play a big part in my future life, although at this time she was just a physiotherapy student. One of my favourite pastimes at school was watching our carpenter, who made the chairs and tables and other things we used specially for our individual needs. He made me a wooden chair just for indoor use which I could sit in more comfortably. At this time I didn't have a wheelchair of my own and so had to be carried when I went out.

The Pendulum Swings Me Back Home

The two years I spent at school were quite happy but I think I must have been homesick because I kept asking our superintendent when I was going home. Although I enjoyed my lessons and treatment I never really settled there. So eventually I went home. It must have all been arranged rather quickly because no one seemed to know anything about it and my mother was very surprised when I suddenly arrived home one day in a Red Cross car—this was quite understandable; for my brother John was only a baby and there wasn't much money. However, we all settled down for a while, and my uncle, who was a carpenter, made me a chair and a table which could be fitted together, which helped a lot. Our flat was on the ground floor which in a way was a good thing but it was damp and very small. My mother realised that it wasn't the best place for me, so once again our doctor was consulted. But places in special schools for children like me were not easy to find.

Disappointment

After a while an interview was arranged for me at St. Margaret's School in Croydon. My mother was relieved and hopeful. We were taken to the school in a Red Cross car and met another spastic boy also waiting for an interview. The waiting time seemed endless and then the boy had his interview first. My turn came after lunch and I wasn't very happy at leaving my mother in the waiting room I wasn't very happy at the interview myself either, in fact I screamed the place down while the doctors examined me. After all this it wasn't easy to accept that my interview had failed and there was no place for me at St. Margaret's. I was able to understand my mother's disappointment and remember crying all the way home. The driver put the radio on to cheer me up but it wasn't very successful. Well, these things happen and one must just try again, but the time went on and on and I still wasn't having any education or treatment.

On My Own

My brother John was going to a nursery school by now but both my parents had to go out to work, so I was left at home on my own to amuse myself. While mother was out one might think I was neglected but before leaving home at 9 a.m. she made quite sure that I was happy with a few sweets to look forward to. By the time I had undone the wrapping a fair amount of time had passed and

(To be continued next month)

at 12 o'clock mum came home to give me my lunch and toilet me before leaving again for afternoon work. One of my favourite occupations was making words and patterns with coloured bottle tops. There wasn't much in the way of entertainment but a friend of ours did take me out each week on her day off. The doctor was still trying to arrange for me to go to school but it seemed a long time waiting. In the meantime we managed as best we could.

Letters to the Editor



JERSEY GUEST

Dear Editor,

I am sending a picture of Mr. Clarence Malherbe and his escort, Mr. Sidney Stansfield, who are staying with us from Jersey, Channel Islands. This is Mr. Malherbe's first holiday away from Jersey, this being sponsored by the Jersey Spastics Society.

During his stay here, Mr. Malherbe has visited London and seen many places of interest.

Workers from the Ford Motor Works at Dagenham, hearing of Mr. Malherbe's holiday, have collected amongst themselves and sent him £3 as spending money.

Miss M. Burden,
Manageress,
The Arundel.

PEN-FRIEND

Dear Editor,

I saw the notice of Pen-friend Programme in your magazine. I would

like to have pen pals in France, Germany, Norway, Denmark or Holland.

Yours very sincerely,
Ann Turner,
248 Bedford Avenue,
Buffalo 16, New York.

I'm not sure you'll get them by writing to England, Ann, but the NEWS does go abroad and perhaps you'll be lucky. Let us know how you get on. We have sent you the Parker Pen-friend Programme form too.

HOLIDAYS IN BRIDLINGTON

Dear Editor,

The Friends of the Spastics Society in Hull and District have vacancies at their Holiday House in Bridlington during the months of April, May and June. They will welcome applications from members of other Groups on a strictly "first come first served" basis. The cost is £2 10s 0d. per family for a week. Will anyone interested please contact Mr. H. Hincliffe, 4 Minnie's Avenue, Kimberly Street, Argyle Street, Hull.

The house is situated near the North End of the Promenade at 33 First Avenue. It stands in its own grounds and has four bedrooms (one downstairs), bathroom, kitchen, small dining room and a sitting room (with TV.), which may be used for dining. The property is situated about 200 yards from a good shopping centre and a similar distance from the beach. The Group hope to have a bathing chalet on the Promenade as other years, and to have part-time domestic staff for cleaning purposes next season. Visitors are respectfully requested to bring their own bed linen, etc., and to leave the house as they found it.

T. A. Holmes,
88 Ryehill Grove,
Preston Road,
Kingston-on-Hull.

NEW CLUB

Dear Editor,

Due to the insight of our Hon. Secretary, Cecily McCaul, who knows and understands so much about the problem of young spastics like myself, we have, with her help and advice, formed our own Club. Our first "At Home" which was also our Inaugural Meeting, took place on Thursday, September 17, 1964, at the Ilford, Romford & District Spastics Hall, Craven Gardens, Barking.

The purpose of this Club will be to provide entertainment, outing and the kind of wonderful social life we already enjoy as members of the Ilford and Romford Group and because of this and all the other amenities we enjoy, we would like to share with other spastics, not only our neighbouring Groups of East London, Epping, Loughton and Walthamstow, but any other spastic who can travel.

In this Group we are truly a happy active family of brothers and sisters with Mrs. McCaul as the doting mum, so if anyone is interested please write to me.

We hope at a later date to function independently, but this will be discussed when we are a Club.

Miss Pat Berry,
128 Lancaster Drive,
Elm Park, Hornchurch,
Essex.

We are pleased to learn your news Pat, and look forward to the day when your Club, like many others, is able to function under its own system.

Planning and carrying out your own programmes without help is great fun—ask any '62 Club Committee member.

THE STORY OF THE SOCIETY

I have just finished reading "Every Eight Hours". Carefully compiled though it is, it does not begin to convey just what it was really like in those very early days. Those rumbustious committee meetings, the excitement and noisiness of the early general meetings.

How really very cross some Groups were when we purchased our humble first offices at Stratford Road. How Groups each seemed to have a different idea of priorities; how in the end, a hard-pressed Executive Committee was able to evolve a plan, the fruits of which are now evident all around us.

No one can dim my memory of those early committee meetings. Some of us from afar used to travel to London on Saturday evenings and spend the rest of the evening in the office basement making umpteen cups of tea, and discussing problems until two or three in the morning. In those days, most members of the Executive had to serve on various sub-committees as well. I still remember with awe the time when Mr. Gray, the accountant, asked the Financial Committee's permission to purchase a safe, because he was having to sleep on pound notes stuffed under a mattress!

To my mind, not enough has been written about the four founders. Theirs was the idea, and theirs was the drive. They all drove themselves tremendously and yet could spend extra hours in discussions with one or two committee members after the meeting had dispersed. One of my happiest memories is of Ian Dawson-Shepherd and I, having a last hectic discussion at a bus stop; snow was falling all around us, and we let bus after bus pass by for over an hour, so wrapped up were we in what we were saying.

Nor can I forget the part Mr. Emms played in drawing all the strings together and making the plans work. The Society is better organised now, but I find it a good thing at times to look back in humbleness to the beginnings and to realise the how's, the when's and the why's, and also how tough things were and could be again.

W. M. C. Hargreaves,
Club Organiser.

HARROW DISABLED PERSONS CHORAL AND MUSIC SOCIETY

Dear Editor,

Recently I have taken over the Choir Master's post of the choir attached to the above society and find that it is "in the doldrums" and very much in need of revitalising—hence this letter to you.

We have a very good number of keen members who want to work hard, and give concerts in aid of various funds and so on, but we cannot survive with this small number, and feel that

a little advertising in the right quarter might have the desired effect.

The details are as follows:—

1. Two practices a week—Tuesday and Thursday at Bridge School, Wealdstone. 7.30-9.30 each evening.
2. Transport provided by M.C.C. if necessary.
3. This is serious, mostly four-part work, and we enjoy ourselves.
4. Concerts and festivals are arranged.

G. W. Hodson,
78 Mollison Way,
Edgware, Middx.

SITUATION VACANT

Qualified Infant/Nursery Trained Teacher required at Spastics Day Centre, Montessori training acceptable. Pianist essential. Burnham scale salary, if applicable, otherwise by negotiation. Please send full details of training, experience, age, etc., to The Secretary, Spastics Centre, Langside Avenue, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset. Tel.: Winton 3058.

SITUATION VACANT

Would any man consider giving companionship to spastic man (44) and taking entire charge of small bungalow in pleasant surroundings—permanent or temporary post. Salary by arrangement. Please write: Goode, Rathrobin, Totland Bay, Isle of Wight.

FUND RAISING

We can supply you with Rolltip retractable or non-refillable pens, printed with your details on the side. Using this idea well over 50 per cent profit can be made. Details: The Douglas Supplies Co., 34 Princes Street, Ipswich.

WORKSHOP SUPERVISOR AND SALES REP.

Immediate vacancy for the post of Workshop Supervisor and Sales Representative in an industry employing disabled girls. Speciality is hand-block printing on textiles, products include aprons, skirts, towels, curtaining, etc. Salary range £500-£600 p.a., applicant with own car allowed £50 p.a. car expenses with generous mileage allowances for all journeys done for the industry. Write: Secretary, Yateley Industries for Disabled Girls, Mill Lane, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey.

HOUSEMOTHER—RESIDENT

Immediate vacancy for the post of Housemother, to share with second Housemother in the care and welfare of disabled girls living on the estate. Full board and lodging free with salary range £300-£350 p.a. Write: Secretary Yateley Industries for Disabled Girls, Mill Lane, Yateley, Camberley, Surrey.

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER EXHIBITIONS

JANUARY

7th	Platts Common Workmen's Club, Platts Common, near Barnsley	J. Rea
8th	Crowle Legion Club, Crowle, Scunthorpe, Lincs.	
	(changed from December)	J. Rea
11th	Morley Cons. Club, Chapel Hill, Morley, Leeds	J. Rea
12th	Stanley Cons., Stanley St., Stalybridge, Cheshire	J. Rea
13th	St. James' Cons. Club, Ripponden Rd., Oldham	J. Rea
14th	British Legion Club, Ashton Rd. West, Failsworth, Lincs.	J. Rea
15th	Liberal Club, Pleasant St., Castleton, Rochdale	J. Rea
18th	Cons. Club, Ely Rise, Llandaff, Cardiff	J. Rea
19th	British Legion Club, Port Talbot, Glam.	Joyce Gardner & J. Rea
20th	Non Political Club, Hopkinstown, Pontypridd	Joyce Gardner & J. Rea
21st	Sea View Labour Club, Dock View Rd., Barry Glam.	Joyce Gardner & J. Rea
22nd	United Services Club, Wind St., Aberdare, Glam.	Joyce Gardner & J. Rea
26th	Cons. Club, Town St., Farsley, Pudsey, Yorks	J. Gardner & R. Williams
26th	Cons. Club, Branch Rd., Batley, Yorks	J. Rea
27th	Southey Social Club, Southey Green Rd., Sheffield	J. Gardner & J. Rea
28th	Workmen's Club, Sheffield Rd., Pennistone, Sheffield	J. Gardner & J. Rea
29th	Rudheath Social Club, Middlewich Rd., Northwich, Ches.	J. Gardner & J. Rea

SCHOOLS & CENTRES OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

SCHOOLS

THE CRAIG-Y-PARC SCHOOL

Pentyrch, Nr. Cardiff.
Telephone: Pentyrch 397.
Headmistress: Mrs. C. M. Kearslake.

THE THOMAS DELARUE SCHOOL

Starvecrow, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge, Kent. Telephone: Tonbridge 4584.
Headmaster:
G. D. C. Tudor, Esq., M.A.

INGFIELD MANOR SCHOOL

Five Oaks, Nr. Billingshurst, Sussex.
Telephone: Billingshurst 2294.
Headmistress: Miss E. M. Varty.

IRTON HALL SCHOOL

Holmrook, Cumberland.
Telephone: Wasdale 202.
Headmaster: John Nelson, Esq.

THE WILFRED PICKLES SCHOOL

Tixover Grange, Duddington, Nr. Stamford.
Telephone: Duddington 212.
Headmaster: R. A. Pedder, Esq.

ASSESSMENT CENTRE

HAWKSWORTH HALL

Guiseley, Leeds, Yorks.
Telephone: Guiseley 2914.
Principal: J. D. Johnson, Esq.

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Principal: V. King, Esq., M.I.Prod.E.,
M.I.Wks.M.

CHESTER OFFICE TRAINING CENTRE

Western Avenue, Off Saughall Road,
Blacon, Cheshire.
Telephone: Chester 26987.

Stockport Branch

Granville House, Parsonage Road, Heaton
Moor, Stockport.
Telephone: Heaton Moor 8776.
Principal: Mrs. V. S. Parker.

FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRE

Dene Park, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge,
Kent.
Telephone: Tonbridge 3859.
Principal: P. K. Mayhew, Esq., M.A.

WAKES HALL (S.O.S.)

Wakes Colne, Nr. Colchester, Essex.
Telephone: Earls Colne 476.
Warden: E. T. Warne, Esq.

PRESTED HALL & THE GRANGE

Feering, Kelvedon, Essex.
Telephone: Kelvedon 482.
Warden: J. H. Watson, Esq.

COOMBE FARM

Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey.
Telephone: Addiscombe 2310.
Warden: F. W. Bowyer, Esq., M.A.

PONDS HOME

Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks.
Telephone: Jordans 2398/9.
Warden: Mrs. C. Brown.

BUXTON CENTRE: "THE BEDFORD"

St. John's Road, Buxton, Derbys.
Telephone: Buxton 541.
Warden: D. H. Simpson, Esq.

OAKWOOD CENTRE

High Street, Kelvedon, Essex.
Telephone: Kelvedon 208.
Warden: J. H. Watson, Esq.
Tutor/Organiser: Miss M. L. Garaway,
M.A.

JACQUES HALL CENTRE

Bradfield, Nr. Manningtree, Essex.
Telephone: WIX 257.
Warden: V. P. Devonport, Esq.

DARESURY HALL

Daresbury, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.
Telephone: Moore 359.
Warden: F. W. Bellman, Esq.

HOLIDAY HOTELS

ARUNDEL PRIVATE HOTEL

23 The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea.
Telephone: Southend 476351.
Manageress: Miss M. Burden.

THE BEDFONT HOLIDAY HOTEL

Marine Parade West, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.
Telephone: Clacton 25230.
Warden: Mrs. J. P. R. Molyneaux.

S.O.S. HOLIDAY HOTEL FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN

Colwall Court, Bexhill.
Telephone: Bexhill 1491.

FAMILY HELP UNIT

THE MOUNT

Elm Bank, Nottingham.
Telephone: Nottingham 66271-2.
Warden: Mr. P. E. Habieb.

SCHOOLS AFFILIATED TO THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

43 Shrewsbury Road, Oxtou,
Birkenhead. Tel.: Cloughton 2583.
Headmistress:
Mrs. M. Collinge, B.A.

BIRTENSHAW HALL SCHOOL

Darwen Road, Bromley Cross,
Bolton. Telephone: Bagley 230.
Headmaster:
D. A. Hiles, Esq.

DAME HANNAH ROGERS SCHOOL

Ivybridge, Devon.
Telephone: Ivybridge 461.
Headmistress:
Miss B. G. Sutcliffe.

PERCY HEDLEY SCHOOL

Forest Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne 12.
Telephone: Newcastle 66-5491/2.
Headmaster:
Mr. D. D. Johnston, M.A., M.Ed.

To: THE EDITOR,
"SPASTICS NEWS",
12 PARK CRESCENT,
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